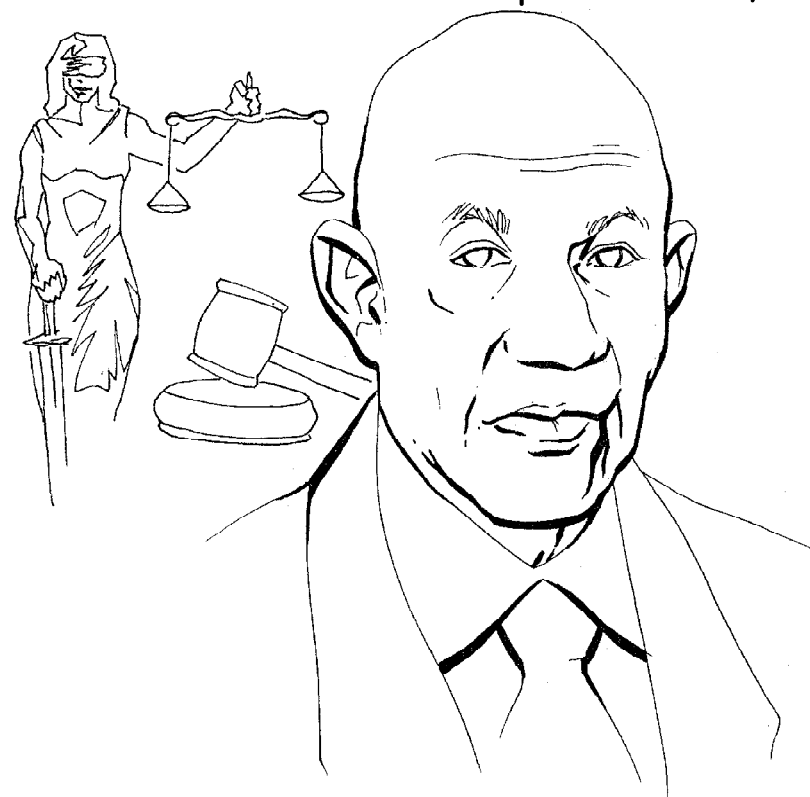


Sen. Irma Hunter Brown

Senator Irma Hunter Brown became the first African American woman elected to the Arkansas House of Representatives and served from 1980 to 1998. She is the first and only African American woman in the history of the Arkansas Senate. She attended Shorter College and the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. Senator Brown is a former teacher and past president of Shorter College in North Little Rock.



Christopher C. Mercer, Jr.



Christopher C. Mercer, Jr. of Pine Bluff was one of the first African Americans to graduate from the University of Arkansas School of Law in Fayetteville and has been a licensed attorney for over 50 years. He received his license to practice law on May 17, 1954 — the infamous date on which segregation in America's public schools was challenged with the Brown vs. Board of Education Supreme Court case. Mr. Mercer also played a role in the integration of the Little Rock Nine into Central High School and advised the Hoxie school board during its school integration.

